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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **Georgia – Complex Emergency**

Fact Sheet #19, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 30, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 11, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- In early September, following the limited withdrawal of Russian troops from parts of Georgia and the accelerated pace of returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs), the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and corresponding Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team officially stood down. At the peak of the emergency, the USAID/DART consisted of 18 members, including administrative, programming, and technical sector specialists. USAID/OFDA continues to work closely with USAID/Georgia through a Tbilisi-based emergency disaster response coordinator to ensure continuity in early recovery initiatives, conduct field assessments in affected regions, and facilitate coordination and information.
- The interagency U.S. Government (USG) response worked with the Government of Georgia (GoG), U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide critical and timely assistance to populations affected by the recent conflict. To date, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia is valued at more than \$40 million, including more than \$12.7 million from USAID/OFDA, more than \$9.8 million from the U.S. Department of State (State), and nearly \$17.5 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).
- The USG assisted conflict-affected populations with emergency relief commodities, nutrition, protection, food security and agriculture, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions. Remaining USAID/OFDA funds are being programmed to support shelter and livelihoods activities for returning populations and to provide winter supplies for IDPs residing in collective centers and with host families.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>Displaced Persons at Height of Crisis</b>	192,000*	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> - September 2008
<b>Returnees to Parts of Georgia Proper**</b>	68,000	UNHCR - September 2008
<b>Population Displaced for Long Term***</b>	54,000	UNHCR - September 2008

\* Estimate breakdown is as follows: 127,000 people displaced within Georgia proper, 30,000 people within the disputed area of South Ossetia, and an additional 35,000 people from South Ossetia who fled into the Russian region of North Ossetia.

\*\* This represents the total number who have returned to their homes of the 127,000 people displaced within Georgia proper. This figure does not capture returnees within South Ossetia.

\*\*\* Estimate of IDPs displaced in August 2008 and unable to return home in the medium to long term (representing 13,500-18,000 households with an average household size of 3-4 persons).

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$12,748,547</b>
<b>State/EUR/ACE<sup>2</sup> Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$3,487,583</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>3</sup> Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$6,319,204</b>
<b>DOD Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$17,486,434</b>
<b>Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia</b> .....	<b>\$40,041,768</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- In early August, heightened tensions led to armed conflict involving Georgian and Russian armed forces and South Ossetian separatist forces, affecting populations in South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and additional areas within Georgia and along the Georgia–Russia border. The U.N. estimated that the conflict displaced approximately 192,000 people, including more than 127,000 people within Georgia proper. Of those who were internally displaced, an estimated 54 percent had returned to their homes as of September 11, while the remaining 46 percent were residing in collective centers and with host families throughout Georgia, predominantly in Tbilisi and the Shida Kartli Region.
- On September 13, teams from UNHCR were granted access to the “buffer zone” north of the town of Gori. The zone is controlled by Russian military forces and was previously inaccessible to international organizations due to the security situation. Following the visit, the teams reported that the destruction of buildings and houses in the area was not as widespread as initially reported. Approximately 10 percent of the housing stock had been burned in each

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM)

village, and additional houses were partially damaged. Looting and destruction occurred following the armed conflict, accounting for further damage to homes. UNHCR plans to conduct regular assessment missions to the buffer zone.

- On September 15, European Union (EU) foreign ministers announced \$712 million in aid to Georgia. The funds will be used for assistance to IDPs, reconstruction, economic growth, macro-financial stability, and new infrastructure. The European Commission announced plans to host a donors conference in Brussels in on October 22.
- On September 17, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a treaty with South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity and Abkhaz President Sergei Bagapsh, sealing diplomatic ties with the breakaway Georgian regions. The accords included a pledge of military assistance from Russia, granted Russia the right to build and improve military bases in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and allowed dual citizenship for Russian, Abkhazian, and South Ossetian citizens. International media reported that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has committed 7,600 Russian troops to be deployed in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which represents more than twice the size of its peacekeeping force before the armed conflict with Georgia.

### ***Population Movement and Displacement***

- Following a detailed assessment completed in mid-September, UNHCR revised the number displaced by the conflict from 185,000 to 192,000 people. This includes 127,000 individuals displaced within Georgia proper, 30,000 displaced within South Ossetia, and an additional 35,000 individuals who crossed the Russian border into North Ossetia.
- On September 16, UNHCR reported that most IDPs who fled to North Ossetia during the conflict had since returned to South Ossetia. Likewise, in the buffer zone villages closer to Gori, most IDPs appeared to have returned. Further inside the buffer zone, however, the rate of return was considerably lower. Of the 127,000 IDPs in Georgia, 68,000 individuals have since returned home. UNHCR estimates that another 5,000 people will return to areas of origin before the onset of winter, leaving a projected 54,000 people displaced through the end of the year.

### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)***

- In response to hygiene and sanitation concerns among newly displaced populations, USAID/OFDA contributed \$750,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for hygiene promotion activities and access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in IDP collective centers. A UNICEF-led working group continues to coordinate WASH response efforts. The working group's hygiene strategy foresees monthly distributions of family personal hygiene kits through March 2009.

### ***Health***

- On September 25, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that approximately 60 percent of the health network in South Ossetia is damaged, including the Republican Hospital in Tskhinvali and 49 health stations. However, WHO has not received reports of outbreaks of illness or signs of a major increase in the number of illness-related deaths in South Ossetia.

### ***Protection***

- On September 16, UNHCR noted that IDPs report the main obstacles to return are the lack of rule of law, overall insecurity, destruction and looting of property, and fear of unexploded ordnance. According to IDPs, the presence of Georgian police and the international community in return areas is vital to build confidence and enable return.
- U.N. and NGO assessment missions to Russian-controlled areas south of the administrative border with South Ossetia continue to report ongoing incursions from across the border by South Ossetians. The situation appears particularly acute in villages close to the border, where villagers have reported regular looting of property and intimidation of the local population.
- UNHCR has reported widespread psychosocial distress and trauma among IDPs and individuals living in the buffer zone. The elderly who have remained behind in the buffer zone are particularly vulnerable.
- In response to protection needs, USAID/OFDA is supporting Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to establish child-friendly spaces in coordination with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Gori District and Tbilisi. In addition, USAID/OFDA is working with SC/US to use more than 100 DOD-provided tents to facilitate the creation of child-friendly spaces in IDP collective centers located in kindergartens. The spaces will address children's psychosocial needs, while also supporting economic recovery by allowing parents to return to work outside the home.

### ***Shelter and Settlements***

- To address the shelter needs of the estimated 54,000 IDPs unable to return to areas of origin before the onset of winter, the USAID/DART worked closely with other donors, the GoG, USAID/Georgia, and UNHCR to develop a strategy for temporary and longer-term shelter solutions recommending host family and community support programs. The shelter strategy was based on three pillars: assistance to returnees, temporary shelter, and durable housing, which are part of a larger shelter response effort that could also include the use of vacant and underutilized houses and other

structures. USAID/DART staff and the USAID/OFDA shelter and settlements advisor also worked closely with the GoG and the humanitarian community to promote the inclusion of temporary and transitional shelter strategies into a GoG IDP settlement plan.

- Short-term shelter assistance, with USAID/OFDA as the USG lead agency, is already underway, with an emphasis on support of hosting arrangements formed among IDPs and their families and friends. The short-term phase will target up to 7,000 IDP households, representing approximately 50 percent of identified needs. Other donors, UNHCR, and the GoG are providing assistance to the remaining balance of IDP households. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.1 million to International Relief and Development and CHF International for emergency shelter activities, which will support the overall GoG IDP settlement plan.
- USAID/Georgia will be the lead USG agency for the long-term housing resettlement and reconstruction phase of the strategy, which will focus on the need of permanently resettling approximately 10,000 households (31,000 people) prior to the onset of winter 2009 and is scheduled to last 15 months at an estimated cost of approximately \$150 million.

### ***Livelihoods***

- A September 18 U.N. World Food Program (WFP) report based on a recent assessment of livelihoods and food security noted that villagers who fled from South Ossetia and the buffer zone remain in collective centers, where they lack assets and livelihoods opportunities and are fully dependent on governmental and non-governmental aid. Emergency food aid has satisfied short-term food needs, but long-term sustainable solutions are required to prevent malnutrition. Only one-third of IDPs indicated that farming was their preferred livelihood. WFP noted that IDPs identified cash, equipment, and land as the primary forms of assistance necessary to ensure future livelihoods.
- A USAID/OFDA livelihoods specialist deployed to Georgia in mid-September to coordinate with USAID/Georgia in the implementation of a USAID/OFDA livelihoods strategy. The strategy focuses on restoring household purchasing power and replacing or repairing productive assets of IDPs and conflict-affected populations. On September 19, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$500,000 to CHF International for economic recovery activities.

### ***Food Security***

- According to WFP, communities in the buffer zone are largely dependent on agriculture for food and income. However, according to UNHCR, WFP, and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessments, 70 to 80 percent of this year's harvest has been destroyed due to restricted water flow from South Ossetia, damage from the conflict, and the inability of farmers to tend to and harvest crops during and following the conflict due to fear of intimidation from South Ossetians and unexploded ordnance contamination of fields. U.N. agencies anticipate that decreased harvests could limit the ability to sustain the return of displaced populations over the winter and feed livestock in the coming months.
- According to WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross has adequate basic food inventories to cover needs in the buffer zone through March 2009.
- USAID/OFDA, in collaboration with USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), has contributed \$1.5 million to WFP for the procurement of approximately 1,100 metric tons of basic food commodities for IDPs. USAID/OFDA also supported FAO to conduct an agriculture and food security needs assessment in conflict-affected areas.
- USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$600,000 to CARE, SC/US, and World Vision through USAID/Georgia. The agencies agreed to pool the resources for combined procurement of complementary food commodities for IDPs in Tbilisi and the affected areas.

### ***Logistics and Coordination***

- USAID/OFDA supplied 9,900 regionally-procured mattresses, as well as 26,422 hygiene kits and 6,050 blankets from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy. The commodities were valued at more than \$611,000, including transport. In addition, USAID/OFDA funded and coordinated the local distribution of commodities transported as part of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) airlift and three U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard shipments.
- Between August 13 and September 4, EUCOM conducted 59 humanitarian missions, delivering a total of 356,380 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), 154,368 meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), 10,432 cots, 19,184 sleeping bags, 26,422 hygiene kits provided by USAID/OFDA, 9,254 blankets, 6,040 sheets, 3,431 mattresses, 653 boxes of medical supplies, and other relief commodities from State and DOD warehouses in Germany and from USAID stockpiles in Italy.
- To date, USAID/OFDA relief commodities and logistics assistance, including the local transportation and distribution of USG humanitarian assistance to IDP families, is valued at nearly \$3.5 million.
- As of September 11, the USAID/DART had distributed more than 1 million units of USG-provided commodities through U.N. agencies and NGO partners to conflict-affected Georgians.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. To date, total USG humanitarian assistance to Georgia is valued at nearly \$49 million, including more than \$21.6 million from USAID/OFDA, nearly \$9.8 million from State, and nearly \$17.5 million from DOD.
- To respond to immediate emergency needs for conflict-affected populations, the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released pre-positioned disaster packages, including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million. State/EUR/ACE has provided additional emergency relief commodities valued at \$2.3 million from storage warehouses in Germany.
- On August 13, EUCOM began airlifting USAID/OFDA, DOD, and State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. NGO partners, including the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Counterpart International, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Samaritan's Purse, Première Urgence, CARE International, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), World Vision, SC/US, International Relief and Development (IRD), hellenicare, A Call To Serve International, and Mercy Corps, have delivered USG emergency relief commodities to populations in need.
- On August 28, U.S. President George W. Bush approved a drawdown of \$5.75 million, which State/PRM processed for contributions of \$2 million to ICRC and \$3.75 million to UNHCR.
- On September 3, the USG announced plans to provide \$1 billion to support Georgia's humanitarian needs and economic recovery. The multi-sector support includes funds for humanitarian assistance, as well as funds to rebuild Georgia's infrastructure and economy. This support will not be used for military expenditures, and will require agreement on mechanisms to ensure proper reporting on and accounting for the use of funds.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi	\$388,887
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies and Food	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$339,660
CHF International	Economy and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$3,124,977
Counterpart International	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$165,046
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$112,714
IOCC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi	\$200,000
IRD	Shelter and Settlements	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,528,404
Mercy Corps	Emergency Relief Supplies, Economy and Market Systems	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$29,952
Première Urgence	Emergency Relief Supplies	Kutaisi, Imereti Region	\$300,000
SCF/US	Emergency Relief Supplies, Protection, and Food	Tbilisi, Ajaria, Imereti, and Kvemo Kartlin	\$516,795
UMCOR	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$427,955
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$750,000
WFP	Food and Logistics	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,499,402
World Vision	Emergency Relief Supplies and Food	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$287,146
	Logistics	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$611,428
	Administration and DART Support		\$466,181
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$12,748,547</b>
<b>STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$3,487,583
<b>TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE</b>			<b>\$3,487,583</b>

<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
ICRC	Protection and assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNHCR	Protection and assistance	Countrywide	\$3,750,000
IRD	Shelter and Settlements	Imereti Region	\$569,204
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$6,319,204</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$1,665,530
	Airlift of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$15,820,904
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$17,486,434</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$40,041,768</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG MRA. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities; the costs of transportation of the commodities by EUCOM military flights is reflected in the DOD Assistance section.

#### **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Georgia may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)